

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 DRC-01 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 EB-11 EUR-25 NEA-10

/109 W

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O P 140640Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5855

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1742

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MA, US

SUBJ: JANUARY VISIT TAMATAVE USS KOELSCH

REFS: A) COMIDEASTFOR 121830Z DEC 73

B) TANANARIVE 1728, 121200Z DEC 73

1. REF A WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT YOUR COMMAND ENVISAGES REQUESTING DIP CLEARANCE FOR ACTUAL PORT VISIT USS KOELSCH TAMATAVE SOME TIME DURING PERIOD JAN 11-25. I GATHER THIS FROM PARA 4(B)(1.) AND SENTENCE IN PARA 3(C), "IN ACTUALITY, MIDEASTFOR UNITS WILL BE SCHEDULED PORT VISITS TO THE EVACUATION PORT(S) COINCIDENT TO THE DATE/TIME OF MIDEASTFOR UNIT(S) ARRIVAL FOR EXERCISE SHAMAL PLAY".

2. I AM NOT SURE IT WILL BE BUREAUCRATICALLY POSSIBLE GET GOMR CLEARANCE WITH SO LITTLE TIME REMAINING, EXCEPT PERHAPS IN CASE OF REAL SHIP EMERGENCY. NORMALLY EMBASSY SENDS QUARTERLY PROJECTED SCHEDULE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY (NOT YET RECEIVED FOR FIRST QUARTER CY 1974) WELL IN ADVANCE OF BEGINNING OF QUARTER IN ORDER TEST GOMR'S RECEPTIVITY TO VISIT. REQUEST FOR DIP CLEARANCE THEN FORWARDED APPROX 30 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF VISIT ONCE SCHEDULE CONFIRMED AND LOG REQS KNOWN. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFTEN TAKES SEVERAL WEEKS TO CLEAR AUTHORIZATION THROUGH SEVERAL OTHER MINISTRIES.

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3. ADDITIONALLY, I AM SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT ADVISABILITY REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION FOR TAMATAVE VISIT SO SOON AFTER GOMR APPROVAL RECEIVED FOR FOUR-SHIP TURNOVER DIEGO-SUAREZ DEC 20-26. AS YOU AWARE, THIS HAS BEEN TEST CASE, NOT ONLY AS REGARDS DIEGO-SUAREZ FOLLOWING MAJOR FRENCH WITHDRAWAL, BUT ALSO AS REGARDS MALAGASY ACCEPTANCE ANY US NAVY VISITS IN LIGHT OF MIDEAST EVENTS AND RECENT OFFICIAL MALAGASY ADHERENCE TO SRI LANKA'S PROPOSAL TO MAKE INDIAN OCEAN "ZONE OF PEACE". IN LIGHT LONG DELAYED BUT NEVERTHELESS POSITIVE GOMR RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR FOUR-SHIP TURNOVER DIEGO-SUAREZ (REFTEL B), I AM CONVINCED IT SINCERELY WANTS CONTINUATION MIDEASTFOR SHIP VISITS. BUT AT SAME TIME, IT IS UNDERSTANDABLY SENSITIVE TO REAL OPPOSITION FROM BOTH WITHIN AS WELL AS OUTSIDE THE GOVT TO ANY MAJOR POWER NAVAL PRESENT IN MALAGASY TERRITORIAL WATERS. SUCH OPPOSITION EMANATES FROM INNATE ISOLATIONISM AMONG MANY MALAGASY AS MUCH AS OR MORE THAN ANTI-WESTERN SENTIMENT.

4. IF LARGE-SCALE DIEGO VISIT GOES WELL AND EVOKES LITTLE OR NO CRITICISM OF GOVT FOR PERMITTING IT, BELIEVE THIS WILL MEAN WE CAN TAKE GOMR AGREEMENT TO FUTURE INDIVIDUAL VISITS AND MULTI-SHIP TURNOVERS MUCH MORE FOR GRANTED. HOWEVER, ASKING FOR DIP CLEARANCE NOW, EVEN BEFORE DIEGO VISIT TAKES PLACE, RISKS GOMR CHARGE THAT WE INTEND OVERINDULGE MALAGASY HOSPITALITY AND COULD JEOPARDIZE FUTURE OF WELL-SPACED VISITS. I KNOW I SPEAK FOR AMB MENDENHALL IN REASSURING YOU EMBASSY ATTACHES EXTREMELY HIGH PRIORITY TO PRESERVING U.S. NAVAL ACCESS TO MALAGASY PORTS.

5. THIRD CONSIDERATION IS DEFINITE PROBABILITY THAT COMMERCIAL SOURCES WILL BE IN NO BETTER POSITION JAN THAN DEC TO SUPPLY FUEL REQUIREMENTS ANYWHERE IN MADAGASCAR, AND THERE IS NO FRENCH NAVY SOURCE AT TAMATAVE.

6. IF SURMISAL PARA 1 ABOVE IS CORRECT, I HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE RECONSIDER SCHEDULING USS KOELSCH TO TAMATAVE IN JAN. THERE ARE PRESENTLY NO OBJECTIONS, HOWEVER, TO REQUESTING GOMR CLEARANCE FOR VISITS AFTER THAT, PROVIDED WE CAN GIVE GOMR REASONABLE ADVANCE NOTICE FOR ALL BUT EMERGENCY CASES.

7. SUBJECT EMBASSY PARTICIPATION SHAMAL XX WILL BE ADDRESSED
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Message Attributes

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